

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Observation of Naval Vessels and Aircraft
in the Riga Area

DATE DISTR.

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1

REFERENCES

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DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. A three-page report entitled "Observation of Naval Vessels and Aircraft in the Riga Area" in March 1959

three small patrol boats (flush-decked, one gun forward, two light guns abaft the single funnel, two more light guns on the afterdeck; possibly KRONSHADT-class);

an old-looking destroyer-like vessel, similar to the British HUNT class and carrying no armament, in the Winter Harbor; the ship bore three Cyrillic characters (not supplied)

On the same day, at the pier seven vessels similar to the KRONSHADT class but smaller, and about 14 MTBs, which were up on the shore at the western end of the harbor.

one probable W-class submarine nearing the Gulf of Riga.

2. in Riga, two helicopters (no further description) and two jet aircraft (fairly small, single-engine, sharply swept wings and tail; very tall fin and side-rudder [sic], tail surface placed far up on the tail fin).

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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SECRET

COUNTRY: USSR

REPORT [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Observation of Naval Vessels
and Harbor Installations in
Riga.

DATE [REDACTED]

DATE [REDACTED]

DATE OF REPORT: 2 June 1959

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1. [REDACTED] at a position approximately 57° 43' N - 22° 06' E,
three naval vessels lying at anchor were observed. The vessels lay with
a distance of circa two nautical miles between them, and covered the entrance
to Riga Bay. [REDACTED]

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Description: The vessels were alike. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The ships were
flush-decked and were small "patrol boats" with one gun on the forecastle
forward of a box-shaped bridge. On the after side of the bridge there was
a bar mast, and on the main deck just aft of the bridge was a broad smokestack
with a top cut at an angle. On the comparatively long after deck, there
were four light-weight guns, one on each side just aft of the smokestack and
two, slightly larger, in a straight line on the center-line. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] several naval vessels were seen in the Winter Harbor.

On the east side of the farthest wharf (No. 3 on the sketch), a destroyer-
like naval vessel was lying. [REDACTED]

2.

Description: The vessel ~~SECRET~~ the British HUNT class, but was possibly somewhat smaller. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] The ship looked like an old model and did not carry arms. The forecastle stretched over almost half of the ship's length, and ended just aft of the bridge. The bridge had a couple of steps on the fore side, and seemed to be covered on the top. The smokestack was located a little aft of the bridge structure and had a slanting chimney-cap.

On the west side of the same pier, seven smaller naval vessels were lying. The ships were partially concealed behind the pier. They seemed to be alike and had one mast and one smokestack. The vessels resembled the ^RROSTADT class, but were smaller.

Up on the shore in the western area (6), of the harbor there were a lot of motor-torpedo boats. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] there were about fourteen vessels. [redacted] they were motor-torpedo boats as each vessel had two torpedo tubes. 50X1-HUM

[redacted] a submarine that came from the north and was on a course toward the entrance to Riga Bay was observed. The sub did not come any nearer than about two nautical miles [redacted] It seemed as though it steered a course that would take it as far as possible [redacted] 50X1-HUM

Description: The sub was much larger than [redacted] submarines. Its length was estimated to be at least 250 feet. The bow was straight up and was slightly rounded toward the line of the deck. The deck-line sloped evenly toward the water aft. The tower was not unusually large, and was located just about [redacted] 50X1-HUM

3.

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in the middle of the ship. The tower was vertical on the forward side, flat on the top, and had on [redacted] after side. Something stuck out from the middle of the top that may possibly have been a radar antenna, and just aft of this was something that resembled a periscope. On the after side of the top, there was a flag-pole with the flag flying. On the step on the after-side, an object had been placed at an angle of about 45° with the slope towards the stern. The object could possibly have been about three meters long reaching up to the top of the tower. [redacted]

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The sketch below

gives the appearance of the sub with reservations as to relative sizes:

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2. AIRPLANE ACTIVITY: [redacted]

[redacted] two jet-propelled aircraft were observed that landed, and after a short time, took off again.

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Description: The planes were alike and were fairly small single-motor jet planes. The wings and tail surface were sharply arrow-shaped, with the tail surface placed far up on the tail-fin. ^(considerable) The fin and side-rudder were very tall and angled back.

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Two helicopters were observed on the same day. [redacted]

Every morning at 0800 hours, a two-engined Soviet propeller airplane arrived and took off again a short time after arrival. [redacted]

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[redacted] it was a plane flying a route.

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3. GUARDS, INSPECTION: [redacted]

the guard at the gangplank called an officer over when [redacted] observed the airplanes through a binoculars.

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